contract of 4.51 lakh tonnes, at the Ho Chi Minh Port, these very officials, about whom the hon. Minister has said, refused to confirm that his vessel had the required percentage content of broken rice and that this vessel has stayed in Port, incurring demuarges from on or around 24th July till at least the 3rd of August. The only reason why this vessel was held up was because the officials refused to certify that this vessel, in fact, had the required percentage content of broken rice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It had more.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Yes, it had more. In fact, my information is that this entire vessel load was broken rice.

Sir, there is one more clarification which I would like to seek. Mr. Chairman, my colleague Yashwant Sinha enquired as to why you did not contract for this rice when the lean season in the international market was there. He immediately replied to that. Would he confirm that the rice that was offered to India, indeed through FCI, was at an average rate of 200 dollars per metric tonne in February and when it was offered at 200 dollars per metric tonne with 13 per cent broken rice content, we did not contract for that! Now we re contracting in excess of 350 dollrs per metric tonne with 35 per cent bioken content and that is the reason why on the ground of public interest you are not coming forward to disclose the correct price at which you have contracted for this rice.

SHRI SUKH RAM: The hon. Member mentioned about the ship. That ship was half loaded. When our quality control...

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: You start from whether it is checked at the point of loading or at the point of discharge.

SHRI SUKH RAM: I have not yet completed my sentence. You are a seasoned Member, you are not allowing me to complete my sentence.

Our quality control officers reached there. They certified that whatever was inspected, was according to the specifications and according to the contractual obligation. It is the Vietnamese Government, Vina Control which is the agency of the Vietnam Government, that is required to certify that the quality of the rice conforms to the standards which have been mentioned in the contract and they have furnished a certificate about that. That is the reason why we have accepted it and there is obligation also that our quality control officers would inspect the rice at the loading port and they will inspect the rice at the unloading port. Since unloading has not started so far, no ship has reached our port, there is no question of certifying or knowing whether they have sent the same quality which is there in the contract.

As far as my information goes, I deny, there was never the price of rice 200 dollars in the international market in the month of February and we have never purchased this rice at 350 dollars. I do not know wherefrom the hon. Members are getting the information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Statements by Ministers correcting answers to Questions. Shri H.K.L. Bhagat.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Import of seeds

*362. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Oilseeds and Vegetable oils Development Board has been importing seeds;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) what are the various qualities of seeds imported by the Board during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) to (c) The National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board has imported a single consignment of 35 tonnes of 'Improved Pereovik' variety of Sunflower seeds from Russia in July, 1987, with quality attributes of high yield, high oil out turn, resistance to downy mildew, drought resilience maturity period of 97 to 100 days and an average height of 190 Cms.

Royalty on Lignite

363. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any letter from the Neveli Lignite Corporation recommending the payment of royalty on Lignite to Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the amount of roaylty paid by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation during the last three years to Tamil Nadu, year-wise;

(c) the amount invested by Tamil Nadu in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation when the company was incorporated and the mining was commenced; and the details thereof; and

(d) whether any dividend has since been paid on the amount invested so far, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) to (d) The Government of Tamil Nadu had incurred an expenditure of Rs. 78.89 lakhs upto 31-12-1954 on investigation works on the Neyveli Lignite project. On this amount interest at 41/2 per cent per annum was paid by NLC to the Government of Tamil Nadu from 1-1-55 till 31-3-86 when the principal was also fully repaid. No royalty has been paid to the Government of Tamil Nadu so far.

कृषि उत्पादन और किसानों की खरीद शक्ति

368. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विगत में एक-दो वर्ष की छोड़कर देश में कृषि उत्पादन में वृद्धि हुई है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि किसानों की खरीद क्षमता देश में कृषि उत्पादन में हुई वृद्धि के अनुपात में नहीं बढ़ी है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार किसानों की आर्थिक दशा सुधारने के वास्ते षि उत्पादन बढ़ाने हेतु प्रोत्साहन देने के अलावा कृषि को उद्योग का दर्जा प्रदान करने का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है ?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री भजन लाल) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) कृषि उत्पादन और उत्पादकता में वृद्धि होने से किसानों की क्रय शक्ति भी बढ़ी है।

(ग) सरकार इस समय उद्योग को उपलब्ध रियायतें कृषि के लिए देने की सम्भावना पर भी विचार कर रही है। किसानों की आर्थिक स्थिति को बेहतर बनाने के लिए प्रोत्साहन पहले ही दिए जा रहे हैं।